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CULPEPER'S REPORT ON VIRGINIA IN 1683.

[FROM MACDONALD MSS.—VA. STATE LIBRARY.]

In the first part of the original of this report of Lord Culpeper, which bears the date of September, 1683, he replies briefly to each of the Instructions which had been given him on receiving his Commission as Governor, these replies showing in various aspects, though in a meagre form, the condition of the Colony at that time. We print only the closing portion of the report, in which the account is more extended and comprehensive. Some of this matter is of special interest as throwing new light on the Plant-Cutters' Rebellion, an event in the latter part of the history of Virginia in the 17th century only second in importance to the Insurrection headed by Nathaniel Bacon. The Rebellion, so called, took place in 1682, and it arose in consequence of the failure to secure a cessation of tobacco culture by the co-operation of the tobacco raising Colonies. In consequence of the great quantity of tobacco produced, it had sunk to a ruinous price. The necessities of the people drove them to desperation, and they resolved upon a forcible cessation, so far as Virginia was concerned. The growing tobacco of one plantation was no sooner destroyed than the owner having been deprived, either with or without his consent, of his crop, was seized with the same frenzy, and ran with the crowd as it marched to destroy the crop of his neighbor. The tumult reached its height in Gloucester county, but extended to Middlesex, New Kent and York. The commotion was finally put down by the militia. It was estimated that ten thousand hogsheads of tobacco were destroyed.

I shall acquaint your Lords^{ships} with what I have done in Relation to the Commission dated 27th Novemb. last, and the sev-

erall orders of Councill dated since my Instructions, and all other things of moment transacted by me During my Continuance in my Government and on my comming away.

1. As to the commission, with the order of Council, against Governours taking presents, or raising monyes for them I caused them to be read publicly in the Face of the Country at the opening of the Generall Court; For the Commission I have pursued it exactly except in Two particulars, 1. In issuing out a Generall pardon for Plant-cutting, w^{ch} was found to be Treason, when I was thereby restrained from Pardoning Treason at all. To w^{ch} I answer, That I verily believe there were many persons Engaged in it, who though they knew they did amisse, Did not thinke or intend to commit Treason, but onely to raise the Price of Tobacco and were inveigled to doe the same by letters from such Merchants in England as had bought up Great Quantities thereof at Home, and furnishing them with Goods and credit, had interest enough with them to persuade them to it, with a Designe of Gain to themselves not the Planters. Now I was of opinion with the whole Councill, that after having asserted the Dignity of the Government in making two Examples of the same, nothing could be better done than to Compose the minds of soe many Seduced Anxious Subjects, and I dare boldly averre the peace and Quiet of the Country, and the Great Crophe of Tobaccoe there, is owing chiefly to that proclamation, w^{ch} was Expected long before it was published. I humbly begge leave on this occasion, to represent to your Lords^{ships} the necessity of a power in the next Commission there shall be occasion to take out to pardon such kinds of Treasons w^{ch} you may restraine as you think fit by Instructions, for all Governors there have always used it. S^r Henry Chichely* Issued out a Generall pardon in June before

* Sir Henry Chichley was, as appears by a letter written by him in 1682, a brother of Sir Thomas Chichley of Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, who was a member of the English Privy Council and Master of the Ordnance. Sir Henry served in the Royal Arms during the civil war, and came to Virginia in 1649. It appears from the English State Trials, that when about to sail for Virginia he was arrested, "being casually in the same inn" with a person who was charged with plotting against Cromwell. He was, however, released after a short confinement in the tower. He was a burgess for Lancaster county (then including Middlesex) in 1656;

for all Treasons and felonyes, and other Crimes to all in the field that did forthwith lay downe Armes, and it had a good Effect, and the Government will be exceedingly cramp't without it.

2. In appointing Mr. Secretary Spencer president, when Col Bacon was first named in the Instruction, To wth I answer first that Col Bacon was extremely averse to it, to that degree that I was doubtful whether any consideration in the world would have made Him Accept it, I was apprehensive If I had acquainted him therewith that if he had found the Instruction Dated before the Commission (when as they are said to bear equall date) He might not onely have excused himselfe from it, but hindered others from accepting it, and put a stoppe on the whole thing. Second, The Secretary is a Patent officer, from the first seating of the country, the very next in Dignity to the Gouvernour or Commander in Cheefe, and it would have created various Discourses and thoughts if any other had been it, there having been Instances of a Secretaryes having been President, nay Commander in Cheefe in the absence of the Gouvernour, And Thirdly, I looked on their fitness soe equally, and believed them both soe good men, that I thought it Indifferent who was it of the two, onely Mr. Secretary had less private businesse, and more Leisure, and Assured me that he would not stirre from James Citty or a little plantation he hath within 3 or 4 miles of it, till he heard from me out of England, uppon my promise to make Him some allowance, for his absence from his family and losse in his Domestick Concerns, To this adde that not having been called to the debate of who should be named first in the Instructions, I thought the ranking of them to be onely Accidentall, and not uppon an exact consideration of the fitnessse of each

was sworn a member of the council April 15th, 1670, and continued a member of that body until his death. In 1675 he commanded an expedition against the Indians. In 1674 he was appointed deputy-governor, and in absence of the various governors was frequently the acting executive. He married Agatha, widow of Ralph Wormley, of "Rose-gill," Middlesex, and daughter of Richard Eltonhead, of Eltonhead, in the county of Lancaster, England. Whether he left issue is not known. He died February 5th, 1682. A record at Somerset House shows that his will is not recorded there, and if he made one it is not recorded in Virginia.

one, of wth I Could give instance in a more unproportionall (though remote) nomination. As to the order of Councell about Governors I had a mocon of presenting me with 20 lb. of Tobacoe p Head made to me on the 18th Decemb., (when as I received not the order till the 3rd day of March following) wth I not onely declined, but suppress with scorn and silence.

3. As to the order of Councell Concerning Mr. Sandys and Mr. Broune, Besides other most materiall objections that it is Lyable to, I found the case extremely wrong stated, And am most Confident that since 1662, there hath been noe Allowance made to any person whatsoever, on the Contrary denyed to severall, who have been more modest, lesse obstinate, and of better Behaviour then the said Mr. Sandys, who hath been personally rude to me at severall times, even beyond all patience, and had I not been Gouvernor of Virginia I would not have endured it. You will find the thing particularly answered by the Councell of Virginia 13th March last, soe that I shall adde noe more, but acquaint your Lords^{ps} that I have received more trouble in this, than almost any one thing in my Gouvernement, and that onely by not being made acquainted, or heard before the passing the order, a method that I hope will not be practised hereafter, for it can have noe good, but be the occasion of several Inconveniences.

4. As to the order of Councell of the 13th July, with that part of the order of the 17th June that concernes the stores. The Norwich Fregat never came to Virginia nor any other, and I fear there will be soe ill an Account given of them, that I resolved not to sell or Dispose of any of them or intermeddle therein further then I needes must and as is before specified.

5. As to the Rest of the said Instructions that concerned Plant-Cutting in 1682; Mr. Beverley, the restraint on Planting Tobacoe, with the letter of my Lord Baltimore, they all relating to the same Business, you will please to accept of this short narrative. The very same evening that I arrived in Virginia, viz. Saturday 16 Decemb. last, I went a shore, and hearing the Assembly was still sitting, but soe near a Conclusion that every thing was writing out faire in order to be enacted I sent an Ex-presse to give notice of my arrivall, with a prohibition to proceed further, till I was acquainted and satisfyed with what was

done. The next day the Councell attended me at Green Springe, with the Speaker, whom I ordered the same evening to send me an account of the proceedings of the House, and to adjourne the same till Monday at 10 in the morning. I was the said Monday by 7 at James Citty, attended with a full Councell, in the afternoon the House in a full Body complemented me on my Arrivall after w^{ch} I fell into Business, and having made alterations in almost every one Act of the greatest consequence, rejected all things they intended for their favorite Mr. Beverley, Denied to pass any one order (though from the first seating of the country to that day, noe assembly had ever sate without passing order) and devided the one halfe of Mr. Buller's* forfeited Deer skins amongst them as Enformers as I have hereinbefore expressed, w^{ch} they carried in triumph home with them to their respective counties whom they represented, I Dissolved them with a speech against Plant-Cutting, all w^{ch} will more fully appear by the Journals of that Assembly.

Though I passed the said lawes, scarce one of them had my Entire Approbation, and I believe Few will have your Lords^{ships}. But the Assembly having sate soe long without doing anything, and my First and Cheefe Businesse being to make an example of Plant-Cutting, I thought it more for the Kings service that the Dislike should come from England then from me, especially having taken out the sting of them, and brought them to be rather not Good than Bad.

On the 10th of January I called a full Councell and strictly examined the Businesse of Plant-Cutting, and all the evidences relating thereunto, By w^{ch} It most plainly Appeared, that the Vigorous advice given by Mr. Secretary Spencer for the securing the person of the said Mr. Beverley, and the faithfull and Courageous execution thereof by Major Gener^{all} Smyth (though to his owne very Great losse of 2 or 300 lbs. by the Rabble cutting up his Tobaccoe plants within two days after out of spite) was the cheefe cause of the peace and quiet of the country, as well as lucky to the said Mr. Beverley himselfe, who had he

* Richard Buller, merchant, of London, whose agent in Virginia was John Herbert (*Sainsbury Papers*), probably a kinsman, as John Herbert had a son named Buller Herbert.

been at liberty had in all probability been ingaged therein, whereas uppon the utmost scrutiny, I could find noe proof of anything against him, But only rudenesse and saucynesse and an Indeavour to compasse his ends by prevailing on the easynesse of an enclining Gouvernour, and causing S^r Henry Chicheley to stoppe shippes, To countenance petitions for an assembly, and afterwards to call an Assembly Contrary to positive Instructions, and the Expresse Advice of the Councell, who at their very last meeting had agreed to a proclamation to Adjourn the Assembly till Novemb. But S^r Henry had noe sooner got his own house, then He was persuaded not onely not to sign it, but, ex mero motu, to issue out proclamations for its meeting in April 1682 following, without menconing the Councell therein, and yet pursuant to the above menconed order of the 17 June 1682, I put him, the said Beverley, out of all offices and Employments whatsoever untill his Ma^{ties} pleasure should be farther knowne. In the next place notwithstanding the severall Discouragements I lay under, by S^r Henry Generall pardon to all then present in the Field without naming who, w^{ch} in effect included all to that Day, and by his particular pardon to one John Suckler (the cheefe contriver and promoter of the said Plant-Destroying,) on condition He should build a Bridge neare adjacent and convenient to the Plantation S^r Henry lived in, for his performance whereof His son in Mr. Raufe Wormley* one of his Ma^{ties} Councell (with one Mr. Christopher Robinson) was security, and by His taking Bayle for the appearance of all the Rest, whereby He did not onely declare the same to be a Ryott and noe more since Bayleable But did that appear alsoe as slight as possible to the people, and though I was little used to the practical part of criminal matters yet according to Bradshawes and Burton's Case 39 Elizab, making the intent onely of a universall flinging up of all Encloses to be treason though it did not succeed, I found, a Fortiore, the universall cutting up and Actual Destroying of all Tobaccocoe-Plants By Force and Armes, though none killed, to be treason alsoe (not onely by the 13th of this King, but even within the 25th of Edward the Third) and the Councell being Unanimously of the same Judgement, And the

* See *Virginia Historical Magazine* I, 115, 116.

Evidence most Plaine, I some time after committed the persons of Sommersett Davies, Bartholomew Black Austen, Richard Baily and Cocklin to prison for treason.

Having in the Interim on the 13th March issued out the two proclamations about John Haley, and the Impannilling Grand Juryes &c, I caused them to be indited and tryed the next Generall Court, according to the usuall Formes and Methods, where notwithstanding the noe small Endeavours of some to imetate Ignoramus Juryes, and the High words and threats of others, Both Grand and Petty Jury as great in every respect if not the greatest that ever was Impannilled in that Colony) Found the three First Guilty, But the Evidence not coming up soe full against the last, He was acquitted. Of the three condemned, I ordered the cheefe Sommersett Davies to be Executed during the sitting of the Court, and Black Austen before the Court-House in Gloucester Country, where the Insurrection first broke out, and where the Justices had too much inclined that way, But for Richard Bailey, He was Extremely young not past 19, merely drawn in, and very penitent, and therefore having soe fully asserted the Dignity of the Gourvernment in the Exemplary punishment of the other two to Deterre others, I thought fit to mingle Mercy with Justice, and Repreeved Him, promising to Intercede with His Ma^{ty}, not onely to pardon his life, But to restore the little Estate He had alsoe, To the End the whole Country might be convinced, that there was noe other motif in the thing, But purely to maintain Gouvrenment and their owne Peace and Quiet, And I the rather Inclined thereunto, and thought myself obliged in some sort to Grant the Generall Pardon alsoe, Because before my arrivall the crime was reputed even by many good men to be but a great Ryott onely and not treason, and if that had been the case, and a Ryott onely found, the Country could never have been safe, For then there could have been no punishment beyond Fine and Imprisonment, Both w^{ch} would be greater to the Gouvrenment then to the offenders, For scarce one of them was worth a Farthing, and soe must be maintained, and there are in effect no prisons, but what are soe easily broken, that I count it a Miracle, The Foure I Committed did not escape, I am sure I was in paine all the while and would scarcely sleepe for fear thereof. In a word

I concluded soe the thing were prevented for the future, as I am confident it is forever, and that the Humour will never break out that way again, that all other particulars were inconsiderable to the Main Business. If your Lords^{ships} think there is not enough done, I have in purpose Excepted Mr. Beverley and others out of the proclamation, that you may proceed against Him, If you can, and the others if you will.

In this plan I think it most proper to insert, How uppon the Earnest Unanimous and repeated Addresses of the Councell, as most Absolutely necessary to the Peace and safety of the Country, and Especially at that time to countenance the Resolution of making an Example of Plant-Cutting, I did on the first day of January last, Adde Ten Souldiers and a Corporall, to the Sergeant and Eight Souldiers that had been kept up by S^r Henry Chicheley and the Councell ever since the first day of July preceeding, to make up Three Files with a Sergeant and Corporall in all. The charge of the Sergeant and Eight Soldiers (according to the Kings pay) with eight pence p Day for Fire and Candle amounted unto 0- 7- 6 p diem, and to just sixty nine pounds from the said first day of July to the first day of January last Aforesaid, w^{ch} I payd unto them without any deduction or abatement in ready money the Day after, I payd alsoe the said sergeant and Eight Souldiers together with the Corporall and Ten Souldiers taken on by me (making with the said Eight pence p Day for Fire and Candle just 0- 15- 2 per Diem) Just before my Comming away the summe of one hundred Thirty seven pounds five shillings two pence In full unto the first day of July following All dry mony out of purse, and I have left monyes and orders with Mr. Auditor Bacon to continue the payment of them punctually the last day of every muster untill the First Day of January Next, w^{ch} doth make one hundred thirty nine pounds Ten shillings Eight pence more, and the whole 345. 15. 10. For the Repayment whereof I have drawne two Bills of Exchange on Mr. Foxe the Paymaster the one for 206.5.2. (being the two first summes put together) payable to Mr. Mecaiah Perry or order at ten Dayes after sight, and the other for 139.10.8. being the latter summe at Fifty Dayes to the same person, But in Regard I have not till now made your Lords acquainted with my Actings, I have Desired Him not to present them, that care may

be taken and order Given for Complying therewith, w^{ch} I hope will forthwith *be* done.

I did then also hire a sloop or vessel of sixty tuns for one year from first of January last to 1st of January next at 0.6.8 p Tun p Calendar month (His Ma^y Finding Powder Bullet and small Armes) and Contracted with the Master or Captain at 4.0.0., the mate at 2.5.0. The Carpenter at 1.15.0. and twelve seamen at 1.4.0 Each p month of Foure weekes as alsoe with a person to victuall them at Eight pence p Head p Diem all Cheaper then ever yet was donne in America on my undertaking to pay them punctually every three months my selfe, I entered the Carpenter and three seamen onely on the fifteenth Day of January, and all the Rest on the seven and twentieth Day of February following, The charge whereof until the First Day of July last amounted unto the summe of three hundred twenty three pounds three shillings six pence, w^{ch} I actually paid in ready monyes out of purse before I left the Country, without one Farthing deduction, together with fifty-five pounds four shillings I advanced to the victualler on account, For the rest of the victualling with wages and hire of the said vessel unto the 1st Day of January next amounting unto Three hundred Forty six pounds one shilling more, I have directed Mr. Secretary Spencer to pay the same out of the first monyes He should receive for me at the end of Each three months, and I dare Engage to your Lords^{hips} it will be most punctually performed, soe that I doe humbly desire and Expect your Lords^{hips} particular care for the speedy Repayment of the same amounting in all unto 724.8.6. without charge or Expense.

I have given such particular Instructions to the Captain Mr. Roger Jones both in relation to the 0.2.0 p Hogs^{bd}, and the penny p pound in Tobaccoe, that if pursued will either prevent Frauds, and soe be worth that way much more then the Charge comes to, or else bring up Vessels and make seizures enough to re-imburse it. Besides I concieve my Lord Baltimore ought hereafter to contribute thereunto, For His Country receives as much security thereby in all respects as His Ma^{ties} Colony of Virginia, and I believe considering the situation of the Capes, and His passage through His Ma^{ties} Dominions He may be induced thereunto, Besides these, and a great many other advan-

tages, a good vessel will alsoe restrayne the unbridled liberty of Privateers pyrates (for the most part) who have of late been troublesome there to the noe small terror of the Inhabitants, and begin formidably to infest the seas thereabouts, Even to the disturbance of the trade with England. Your Lords^{pp} have already had some account thereof, and How Two of them were repreeved after Condemnation, whereof His Ma^{ty} Confirmation or Disallowance is expected, For being ordered before my Arrival, and the lives of men being in Question, I did not think fit to alter anythings or intermeddle therein, having enough to doe with the business of Plant-Destroying.

As to the power given me by the said order of Councill of 17 June 1682 about Tobaccoe with Mr. Secretary Jenkins letter to my Lord Baltimore relating thereunto, I have done nothing therein, and you Lords^{pp} will now receive the said letter Back again, Had I effected either popularity or private advantage, I could have attained both, But Finding that I could keep Peace and Quiet without it, and that the last Assembly busied itself in other matters, I tooke advantage thereof, and never Discovered it to any one person whatever either there or here, on the Contrary I soe encouraged the Planting Tobaccoe this yeare, (as thinking it the greatest service I could possibly doe) By the Great price I gave for the same to that onely Intent, Resolving to loose (as I then expected and have since found to 150 lbs. or 200 lbs.) that if the season continue to be as favorable as when I left the Country, there will be a greater Croppe by farre than ever grew since its first seating, and I am confident the Customs next yeare from them will be 50000 lb. more than ever heretofore in any one yeare, Instead of falling as much if I had done otherwise. Sic vos non vobis, I know I did but my duty in Executing the trust faithfully, for soe I am sure I have donne and onely expect it to remaine a secret still, for not onely the vulgar, But the Councill fondly incline to a Restraint at Least, though not a Cessation as you may find in their state of the Country under their hands dated 4th Day of May last, And they may have hard thoughts of me for not helping them (as they will construe it though I do not think soe) when I could have done it. In a word the thing remains Entire, there is time gotten at least, this Great Croppe will the sooner bring them in

distresse again, and tis the most that can happen to doe it next yeare, supposing it would doe good, as I believe it would to none but the Engrossers of the Commodity at home. That His ma^y may have the full fruit of my labours, and your Lords^{ships} take timely care therein, I thinke fit to acquaint you, That the present Designe of those merchants here that have bought up Great Quantities thereof, they Can not prevent the Growing of it, or Destroy it there, is to Hinder or at least retard its coming home, Both by Discourageing shippes to Goe, and the Planters to shippe. I did (as I was Commanded) Record in the Secretaries Office, His Ma^ys order in Councell that the Lt Gouvernor shall have halfe the salary and Perquisites in the absence of the Gouvernor.

As to the order of the Commissioners of the Treasury to the Auditor, to Deduct 6. 10. 0. out of my salary for the charges of passing the last Commission of Addiconall Instructions sent after me, There was no money left in his hands when he received the same, so that it could not be obeyed till after the Audit, and there being enough due to me to answer the same, I did by my Warrant suspend the Execution thereof, till I shall be heard, as I expect to be, if that be farther insisted on, your Lords^{ships} will herewith Recieve an order of Councell in Virginia Concerning printing, to which your answer is humbly expected.

You will alsoe Receive severall papers about Capt^a Tyrrell carrying away by force Mr. Skevingtons servant (or rather his Estate) Tis a thing of vast Consequence in many Respects; The Kings Lieutenant will make a very ill figure (and be worse than a Cypher) if he serve onely to punish and cannot on Complaint protect His Ma^{ties} subjects in their legall properties. The matter is most plain and undenyable and tis the Kings and Countrys Concerne (not mine in the least) whose eyes are much fixed on the event of it, and will necessarily have a slight opinion of their Gouvernor if he be so treated in the Execution of Justice by every little Captain of a fifth rate, as well as Despaire of Redresse. Noe other man of War ever did anything like it, either in matter or manner. It will make the people afraid of the Kings Shipps, and I am sorry the eleven weeks loytering of that Captain was to noe better purpose. I am next to acquaint your Lords^{ships} that I have payd off and discharged the Quarters of

Major Muslowes Company, as in pursuance of an order of Councill and the Commissioners of the Treasuries letter to me in 1679 I promised the Country to doe. The last Assembly put me in mind of that promise, and to keepe touch with them in everything, I did doe it. Though I doe not doubt the Justice of the Commissioners in the least, yet I desire your Lords^{lpps} recommendations for the Speedy Repayment thereof and of my other Disbursements and Concerns. Your Lords^{lpps} will alsoe perceive by the certificate of the Commissioners for Disbanding the two foot Companies in Virginia a true copy whereof will now be delivered to you, How Great a sufferer I am by the short payment of my owne foot Company in 1680, when as long before I had payd them their full pay for that yeare, Soe that tis I am looser thereby, not they, and that for having donne Extremely well, and what nothing but Honour and the credit of my Gouv^{ernment} could have induced me to doe, I am sure it is Extremely Just and reasonable, and I mencon it onely at present, that in case of Difficulty or Delay, I may have Recourse to you about it.

And lastly I herewith send your Lords^{lpps} the state of the country dated the 4th day of may last, under the hands of the Councill, as alsoe a proposall made to me by Col. William Byrd about the Indian trade, wth according to my maxims of a free trade, though to my owne Great losse, I have layd open, and is now desired to be restrained, I shall not presume to Deliver my Judgement thereuppon, I shall onely advertise you there are severall matters of Great Moment, wth ought to be well considered.

If I have omitted anything (as verily I believe I have not) I shall on the least notice give you a speedy account, and the best Information I possibly can, For noe one subject hath soe Great an Interest in that Colony as my selfe, or can be more concerned for the prosperity thereof, or if any further thing shall occurre to me with your knowledge, I shall take the liberty to acquaint your Lords^{lpps} therewith.

And now having Dispatched the Generall Court last Aprill (notwithstanding the Great Arreare of old causes, and that the Criminal ones tooke up halfe the time) In fewer days and with speedier Justice than ever was yet practised there before, and I hope as Good, since none would appeale, and that there ap-

peared a universall satisfaction, and finding the peoples mind soe settled, and composed with the management of affaires and the Pardon, That they thought of nothing but Planting Tobaccoe, and that the same was Growne up beyond a possibillity of being spoylled by anything but an ill season, I Judged it a proper time if ever, to make a steppe Home this easy Quiet yeare, (not out of any Fondness, to be in England, For my speedy Return back, and a winter Voyage would have much overbalanced any satisfactions my short stay could possibly have permitted me to Enjoy, much lesse out of contempt of orders, nor for any Reason Given by the Councell there, rather the contrary in severall materiall points, But) For the Kings service onely, as well knowing that the Great croppe there in hand, would most certainly bring that plan into the utmost Exigencies again next yeare, that a Gouvernors presence could ill be dispensed with, and uppon a full and true state of the case (the most important in every respect that can come from theme) to take such measures viva voce, with a due Consideration of all Interests, as might ease the Planters if possible, or at least prevent the mischiefes that must necessarily ensue, if due care be not taken therein.

I thank God I did not leave my Gouvernement in the least Distresse, But on the contrary in full Quiet and security, not in the hands of an easy Leiutenant Gouvernor, but of a prudent, able and Vigoruous Councell, for the conduct of almost every Individual member whereof I dare bee responsible, and for the Tenth part of what the Customes from theme next yeare shall exceed this yeare, will give Citty security to pay all damages whatever that His Ma^v shall receive thereby. Your Lords^{ships} will alsoe find by the orders of the 22nd May last, that the Councell there was of the same mind, and the care that was taken by me before I left the place, (without considering myselfe) in all possible events.

In a word, I do Affirme, uppon my Honour, and will Depose on Oath when required (and I believe most of the Understanding and Rich men in the Country will doe soe too) that nothing in the world that then occurred, could have conduced more to the Kings service, and the Peace and welfare of that Colony, then my Returne Home, soe as to have been back there

again about Christmasse, Tis true there was noe consideration had of a new Gouvernor, whose Greater abilities seconded with your Lords^{ships} favour will Doubtlesse far outgoe my weak Endeavours, and yet what the witt of man can expect beyond Peace and Quiet (Especially after such Disturbances) and a Great croppe of Tobaccoe from any Gouvernor living, is above my Capacity to comprehend, I shall mencon noe more on this Head, but to lett your Lords^{ships} know that I have during my stay there, Executed my Gouvernment, and the Truths reposed in me, with all possible Faithfullnesse, and (as plainly appears) with noe ill successe, I doe not find myselfe guilty of any commissions at all w^{ch} may be prejudice to his Ma^{ty}, and I believe I have not omitted much, I am sure I have carried an equall and steady Hand between the King and my fellow-subjects, with none of whom I ever had the least contests, and I dare boldly say noe Disgrace, or Hue and Crye will ever produce one single complaint against me from any one person there, But I will be ashamed if ever there come any on Good Grounds, and I have found the loade of Gouvernment soe heavy, that (though I am not pleased with the methods) I can with as Great Franknesse and satisfaction be contented to be eased of the Burthen, as any other to take it up, soe as it be not donne with losse of Honour, for I have not Deserved the least Diminution imaginable therein, w^{ch} they I may not doe I humbly expect and Desire your Lords^{ships} candid and speedy Representation of matters to His Ma^{ty}.

And last of all, whereas I heare from severall hands various reports of another Gouvernor, though I have received nothing of certainty from your Lords^{ships}, yet if such a thing be, I desire, that due care be taken therein, that I may receive noe prejudice thereby, but that there may be such a Regulation, that his powers may not interfere with my concerns and dues, as alsoe that the six servants I have left in Virginia, with about twenty tuns of Goods may be brought back by the shippe that carryes the said person thither

Your Lords^{ships} most obedient servant,

THO CULPEPER.

20 *September* 1683